WHEN WE MOVED TO
NEW SEATS IN CLASS,
I WOULD ALWAYS CHOOSE
THE ONE AT THE VERY FRONT.
IT IS THE ONLY SAFE SPOT
WHERE YOU CAN NAP
ALL YOU WANT WITH YOUR
HEAD HELD DOWN
WITHOUT BEING POUND OUT!

TERAJIMA YUUJI

KCM5125
KC
講談社

ダイヤのA 42

寺嶋裕二

ISBN978-4-06-395125-7

IF YOU'RE THAT HELL-
BENT ON BEING OBSTINATE,
TOUGH IT OUT TILL THE VERY END
AND CRUMBLE DOWN ONLY
AFTER WE'VE WON!!!

Ace of Diamond

The final of the fall tournament is drawing near.
The opponent is Yakushi, boasting their monster slugger Todoroki Ibechi!
What will become of the injured Furuya and Miyuki?
And what is Eijun's further evolution?!

絶賛好評発売中

KC 寺嶋裕二作品

■GIANT STEP 全4巻

■ダイヤのA ①～

以下続刊

COVER ILLUSTRATION ▼ YUJI TERAJIMA
COVER DESIGN ▼ KAZUMIKO YUNUMOTO + 6PM

2014 7
KC

42
寺嶋裕二
ダイヤのA
エース

CHAPTER 366
LIKE THOSE TIMES 3

CHAPTER 367
OVERHAUL 23

CHAPTER 368
15°C, CLEAR 46

CHAPTER 369
THE SHOW MUST GO ON 67

CHAPTER 370
BREAKTHROUGH 87

CHAPTER 371
POSITIVE MIND 107

CHAPTER 372
LET'S BE DARING 127

CHAPTER 373
LIKE A DIFFERENT PERSON ENTIRELY 148

CHAPTER 374
PRESENT 169

●週刊少年マガジン2014年第8号～第16号

この物語はフィクションであり、
実在の人物・団体・出来事などとは、
一切関係ありません。

CONTENTS

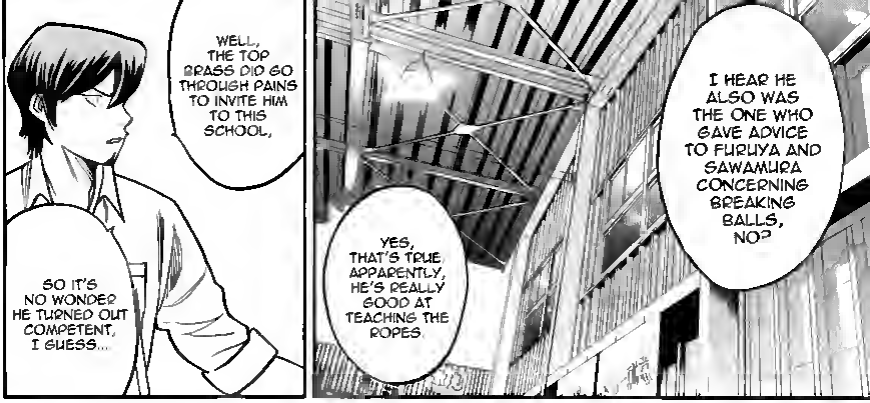
EH?
DAD DID?
YEAH WHEN I VISITED HOME, HE ASKED ME TO GIVE THESE TO YOU...
AND YOU KNOW, DAD ALSO CRIED OVER HOW NO AMOUNT OF MONEY WOULD EVER BE ENOUGH
BECAUSE NOT ONLY DOES HE HAVE TO PAY FOR THE LIVING EXPENSES OF BOTH OF HIS SONS LIVING IN A DORM
BUT ALSO YOU JUST HAVE TO USE SOMETHING AS EASILY BREAKABLE AS WOODEN BATS...

CHAPTER 366
LIKE THOSE TIMES

WANT TO GO TEST THESE?
SINCE I'M HERE ANYWAY, I'LL TAG ALONG, TOO.
TH-THEN COULD YOU ALSO PLAY CATCH WITH ME?
WHY SHOULD I?
I-IT'S OK IF YOU DON'T WANT TO
BUT I STILL HAVE A FAVOR I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK OF YOU...
WHAT A GREEDY GUY YOU ARE, HUH...
SHIRASU
CAN WE TALK FOR A MINUTE?

DAH
YEAH
AH~~~ THIS SURE FEELS GOOD!
HEY! THE BALLS! KEEP 'EM COMING!!!
JUN-SAN! WHEN WILL YOU CHECK MY BATTING FORM, PLEASE?!
It's beyond imagining! We're seeing his aura in reality here!
Imagining going against Tanaka-san, eh.
MAKES YOUR BLOOD PUMP!

目指せ!!甲子
HN?
BY THE WAY, HOW COME NO ONE ELSE IS COMING PRACTICE TODAY?
I SEE EVEN KIJIMA AND NAKATA, BUT WHERE'RE ASOU AND HIGASA WHO TOTALLY NEED TO BE HERE?
THEY'RE USING THE TRAINING MENU COACH OCHIAI PROVIDED
THE LOAD IS MANAGEABLE, AND THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT KINDS, SO IT'S BEEN REALLY POPULAR LATELY
Huh?
THEY'VE BEEN PUTTING EFFORT INTO WEIGHT TRAINING LATELY, SO THEY DON'T COME HERE
HEEH--- THAT PERSON DID, HUH


WELL, THE TOP BRASS DID GO THROUGH PAINS TO INVITE HIM TO THIS SCHOOL.
SO IT'S NO WONDER HE TURNED OUT COMPETENT, I GUESS...
I HEAR HE ALSO WAS THE ONE WHO GAVE ADVICE TO FURUYA AND SAWAMURA CONCERNING BREAKING BALLS, NO?
YES, THAT'S TRUE. APPARENTLY, HE'S REALLY GOOD AT TEACHING THE ROPES.

SO THAT MAN'S HELP WAS PART OF THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THE TEAM'S STEADY ADVANCE IN THE FALL TOURNAMENT.
AND HE'S ALWAYS BUSY POSTING SOMETHING ON HIS TWITTER.
ALTHOUGH HE DOES SAY WEIRD THINGS FROM TIME TO TIME.
I SEE...

THIS GIVES ME MIXED FEELINGS, BECAUSE IT'S LIKE THIS TEAM RESEMBLES THE TEAM I WAS PART OF LESS AND LESS AS TIME GOES BY.
JUN-SAN! ARE YOU READY TO TAKE A LOOK AT MY BATTING FORM?

HIS CONDITION FOR TOMORROW IS UP IN THE AIR AT THE MOMENT, BUT A LOT WILL DEPEND ON WHEN TO PUT IN FURUYA, IN MY OPINION.
HAVING KAWAKAMI PITCH FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE WOULD BE PERFECT
THE MAIN QUESTION IS WHEN TO SWITCH PITCHERS.
...NO, IT WILL NOT,
BECAUSE I DON'T COUNT FURUYA AMONG THE FIGHTING POWER FOR THE MATCH.
TH-THEN, YOU DECIDED IT FROM THE START?!
OR RATHER, I'M MAKING SURE NOT TO TAKE HIM INTO ACCOUNT.
EH?
IT IS UNAVOIDABLE, CONSIDERING THAT THE TIME HE HAS TO RECOVER IS ONLY ONE NIGHT.

I THINK YOURS IS THE RIGHT DECISION!
WHA ?
KATAOKA-SAN, IF YOU'RE FULLY PREPARED FOR THE WORST, THAT MAKES IT EASY...
EXCESSIVE HOPE ARISING IN THE HEAT OF THE MOMENT HAS THE TENDENCY TO CLOUD ONE'S JUDGEMENT
YES, THAT'S RIGHT ...
AND YOU ARE RESOLVED TO MEET YAKUSHI'S BATTING LINEUP, WITH JUST THOSE TWO, KAWAKAMI AND SAWAMURA! IS THAT RIGHT?
SAWAMURA IS THE RELIEF PITCHER, THEN,
青道

AND I ADMIT THAT THE SAWAMURA FROM THE SUMMER CANNOT HOLD A CANDLE TO THE CURRENT SAWAMURA.
NO, NO, NO, NO! PLEASE WAIT A SECOND...
I ADMIT THAT SAWAMURA IS A BIG PART OF OUR FIGHTING POWER...
BUT LET'S NOT FORGET THAT TODOROKI HIT HOMERUNS OFF HIM IN BOTH OUR MATCHES,
NICE PITCHING!
Pitcher change
AND HE EVEN HAD TO BE TAKEN OFF THE MOUND...
青道

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE FACT THAT FOR SAWAMURA YAKUSHI IS THE WORST MATCHUP POSSIBLE,
WE CANNOT LET HIM HANDLE A CRUCIAL MATCH LIKE THAT, NOW CAN WE?!

D-Don't sleep!
.....

I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WANT TO FAVOR KAWAKAMI UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES,
BUT YOU SHOULD APPRAISE THE SITUATION MORE CALMLY
I'M CALM!
EH?
WELL, IT WOULD BE THE IDEAL CASE SCENARIO IF HE COULD. AND HE CAN, IN MY OPINION.
THEN ARE YOU SUGGESTING KAWAKAMI PITCH THE ENTIRE GAME?
AND IT'S THE TIMES LIKE THESE THAT REQUIRE...
IT'S AT THE TIMES WHEN THE FIGHTING POWER IS CRIPPLED THAT THE TEAM'S REAL STRENGTH SURGES FORTH...
...THE MAIN COACH'S INDISPUTABLE ORDERS.

I HAVEN'T CONFIRMED IT YET.
SO IT'S BETWEEN THE TWO OF US FOR NOW
MIYUKI MIGHT BE INJURED SOME-WHERE.

BUT... HE EXIBITED NO SIGNS...
IN THAT CROSS-PLAY?
MOST LIKELY.
IF I TOLD ZONO, HE'D PROBABLY KICK UP A FUSS
IT'D BE GREAT IF MY SUSPICION ABOUT MIYUKI WAS WRONG
RYOU-SAN!
YOUR LEG
DID YOU INJURE IT IN YOUR DASH TO HOME PLATE !?
SO WHAT IF I DID?
EH?
BUT...
EVERYBODY HIDES INJURIES LIKE THIS.

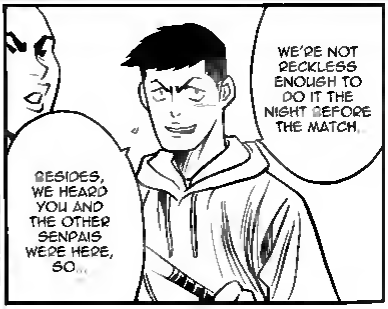
I'M SURE THAT HE JUST WON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THIS OUT OF HIS OWN WILL.
IF IT COMES DOWN TO IT,
WE WILL HAVE TO STOP HIM.
I'M GONNA OBSERVE HIS CONDITION TOMORROW MORNING. BUT...

Don't give any to Masako-kun!
Ah!
Ah!
I will not!
OTHERWISE YOU'LL JUST FORGET ALL OF IT OVERNIGHT
REVIEW THE DATA BEFORE GOING TO BED
AND WHEN YOU WAKE UP IN THE MORNING!
WELL THEN, LET'S GO, SHALL WE?

YOU WANTED TO TRY THROWING THE 2-SEAM, DIDN'T YOU?
AH...
M-MASTE EEEER!
CHRIS-SENPAI, IF IT'S NOT A BOTHER, WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME WATCH HIM AS WELL?
SURE
WHAT, FORGET ALREADY?
Y-YEAH... SURE.
I WANT TO OBSERVE HIS PITCHES FROM THE SIDE, SO WILL YOU CATCH FOR HIM, ONO?

OOH, SO YOU GUYS CAME HERE, AFTER ALL.
OF COURSE!
WHAT ABOUT YOUR WEIGHT TRAINING?

DON'T TALK LIKE YOU REFORMED ME OR SOMETHING!!!
RYOU-SAN I WOULD LIKE SOME OF YOUR TIME LATER TOO, PLEASE
BE NICE TO EACH OTHER, KIDS, HEAR ME?!
WHAA AAT?!


WE'RE NOT RECKLESS ENOUGH TO DO IT THE NIGHT BEFORE THE MATCH.
BESIDES, WE HEARD YOU AND THE OTHER SENPAIS WERE HERE, SO...

GRIN
GRIN
OH, SO IN THE END, YOU'RE STILL...

DID YOU HEAR THAT, CHRIS-SENPAI?!
SKILLFUL APPEAL
THE ONE YOU THREW RIGHT AFTER WAS GOOD, THOUGH
...SO IT REALLY WAS TOO HIGH...
NO, YOU JUST MESSED UP THE PITCH THAT GOT HIT FOR THAT HOMERUN
TEMPER FIEND-SENPAI!
JUN-SAMA!!
YO, SAWAMURA! GONNA BE THROWING NOW?
ANOTHER LOUD-MOUTHED ONE IS HERE
BIG BROTHER!
NO MATTER HOW MUCH OVERNIGHT TRAINING YOU DO, IN THE END IT'S STILL NOTHING MORE THAN ONE NIGHT'S SHARE
YOUNG LEADER!
DON'T OVERDO IT THOUGH.
WHO MIGHT YOU BE?!
I WAS WAITING FOR YOU, SAWAMURA-CHAN.

WA HA HA HA!
MASUKO
BEING ABLE TO PRACTICE WITH ALL THESE PEOPLE FEELS SO NOSTALGIC!
I AM REALLY GRATEFUL TO ALL OF YOU FOR GATHERING HERE FOR MY SAKE!
(CHORUS)
WE'RE NOT HERE FOR YOUR SAKE!!!
EVEN DEATH WON'T CURE HIS IDIOCY!
Nothing lose from him
OH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SHY!
I'll slim down
Don't cry
Yeah, show your willpower
WERE YOU ALWAYS THIS OBNOXIOUS?
No, you can't! Absolutely!

I WANT TO DO EVERY-THING I POSSIBLY CA--
SURE!
ARE YOU GOING TO BE THROWING NOW?
B-BIG BOSS!!!
WHO ARE YOU CALLING BIG BOSS!

CHAPTER 367
OVERHAUL

I'M GONNA SIT INTO THE POSITION NOW
OF COURSE, SIR!
DON'T FORGET YOU'RE THROWING ONLY TO GIVE A LIGHT WORKOUT TO YOUR SHOULDER
WITH THIS MANY PEOPLE WATCHING MY EVERY MOVE, I CAN'T TURN IT LOOSE

ALRIGHT, LET'S START WITH A HIGH SPEED FASTBALL
RELAX

FUH
IT'S AMAZING HOW HE CAN EVEN THROW AT ALL WITH THE EAGLE GRIP
YUP, IDIOSYN-CRATIC PITCH ALRIGHT
WHAT A DIRTY FASTBALL

RIGHT!
NEXT, TRY THROWING A CUTTER.
WATCHING HIS PITCHES FROM THE SIDE DEFINITELY PROVIDES A FRESH PERSPECTIVE
A CROSSFIRE THAT CUTS DEEP
INTO THE AREA AROUND THE CHEST
OF RIGHT-HANDED BATTERS..

ズバッ
パシ
Ooh...

IT'S GOOD THAT YOU'RE TRYING TO PUT THE MITT WHERE YOU THINK THE BALL WILL END UP AFTER BREAKING SO THAT YOU WON'T HAVE TO MOVE THE MITT TO CATCH IT. BUT IF YOU OVERDO IT YOU'LL BE GIVING THE UMPIRE THE WRONG IMPRESSION, AND HE MIGHT CALL IT A BALL EVEN WHEN IT'S A STRIKE
I SEE, THANK YOU!
ONO, YOU'RE HOLDING THE MITT TOO FAR TO THE SIDE
YOU JUST GAVE UP A WALK
DEAD BALL ALRIGHT
THAT WAS A DIRECT HIT JUST NOW!
IT'S AWFULLY DIFFICULT TO THROW IN THIS ATMOSPHERE, YOU KNOW!
ALL THOSE EXTRAS JUST CAN'T KEEP QUIET!
NOW, HOW ABOUT THE CHANGEUP?
SOMEHOW, I GET A FEELING THAT I'M TOTALLY BEING TEASED HERE!!
MAYBE I SHOULD DO SOME LIGHT THROWING, TOO
LET'S SEE HOW WELL HE CAN ATTACK IF IT'S YOU!
CHRIS, WANNA GO STAND IN THE BATTER'S BOX?
MASTER !!!
NO THANKS. I'M NOT PARTICULARLY EAGER TO GET INJURED

OHHH
SO THIS IS THE RUMORED...!
HOW CHEEKY OF HIM WHEN HE'S JUST SAWAMURA, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!
STILL TOO HIGH

AHHH~~ IT'S THAT IMPRESSIVE?
FAULTS WILL REVEAL THEM-SELVES SOON ENOUGH!
Jun-san
GET OFF YOUR HIGH HORSE!
WHACCHA GONNA THROW NEXT? SURPRISE ME MORE!
Hee- That person did?

LATELY, YOU HAVE BEEN GIVING SOME EFFECTIVE PIECES OF ADVICE
DOES IT MEAN YOU HAVE ALREADY BEGUN PLANNING FOR THE NEXT SEASON?

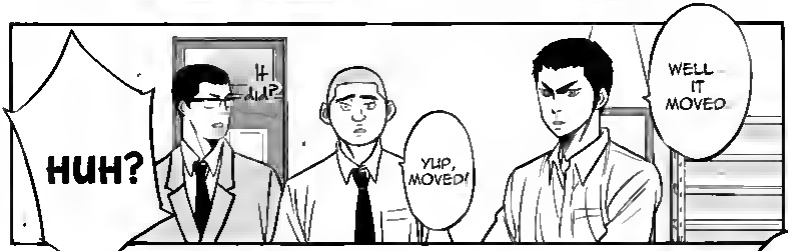
WELL, SINCE THAT PERSON IS A CAPABLE INSTRUCTOR,
I HAVE TO MAKE PLANS AND CONSIDER QUITE A FEW THINGS, TOO—

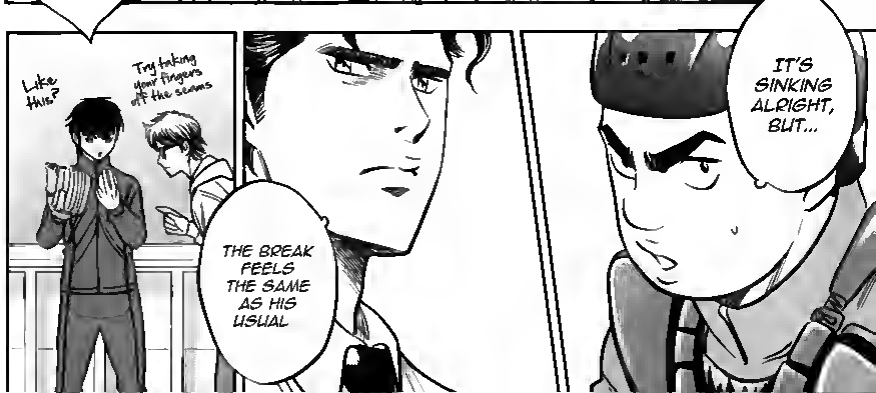
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUBTLE AND PRECISE GUIDANCE.
THANKS TO YOUR ADVICE, OUR PITCHERS HAVE GOT CONSIDERABLY STRONGER.
ESPECIALLY WITH HOW HE BOWED HIS HEAD TO ME EARLIER.
PLEASE CONTINUE TO WATCH OVER THEIR DEVELOPMENT...
HE DOES NOT PLAY FAIR.

TO BE HONEST, I NEVER THOUGHT THAT THIS TEAM WOULD MAKE IT THIS FAR.
AND IT'S UNDER THIS ASSUMPTION THAT I GAVE THOSE PIECE OF ADVICE –
FOR FUTURE USE AND AS THE GROUND-WORK FOR BUILDING THE FUTURE TEAM.
Shoo Shoo
BUT THE ONES WHO CONVERTED MY ADVICE INTO POWER WERE ALL OF THEM.
IT'S THE POWER OF THE TEAM THAT KATAOKA-SAN ALWAYS TALKS ABOUT, I SUPPOSE.
The injured should stay back!
Switch with me.

THROW IT LIGHT-LY
BOTH THE PLAYERS' LEVEL OF MOTIVATION AND THE TEAM'S OVERALL STATE IMPROVED GREATLY
THEY'RE TRULY BECOMING UNITED AS THEY HEAD FOR THEIR SHARED GOAL.
NEXT, 2-SEAM
WITH THE PERSON WHO MADE THE TEAM RAISE TO THIS LEVEL LEAVING...
...IT'S WAY TOO HARSH A SITUATION TO BE PUT IN FOR THE ONE WHO IS SUPPOSED TO SUCCEED SUCH A PERSON...

HOW WAS IT?! MY 2-SEAM!


HUH?
H dup?
YUP, MOVED!
WELL IT MOVED


Like this?
Try taking your fingers off the seams
THE BREAK FEELS THE SAME AS HIS USUAL
IT'S SINKING ALRIGHT, BUT...

I'LL TRY BENDING
MY WRIST EVEN MORE...
AND THAT WAS BALL, WASN'T IT?
IT SUNK
FEEDBACK IS NON-EXISTENT?!
UH-HUH
HOW WAS IT NOW?!
IT MEANS IT WASN'T ANY GOOD IF SOMEONE LIKE ME COULD CATCH IT EASILY
THAT WAS DISTURBINGLY SELF-DEPRECIATING, ONO_

THE OTHERS ARE NOT IMPRESSED...
AND I DON'T GET ANY SPECIAL FEELING WHEN I THROW IT EITHER...
WHAT KIND OF PITCH
DOES IT TAKE TO GET THAT GUY OUT?

FOR THE MOMENT, SUCH A DEMAND IS A REALLY TALL ORDER, THOUGH...
IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S COMPLETELY USELESS, BUT IT'S JUST NOT ENOUGH TO REALLY SHOCK THE BATTER...
ARE JUST ANOTHER TYPE OF MOVING
TO SAWAMURA, FASTBALLS
I HOPE SOMEDAY HE WILL BECOME A PITCHER WHOSE PITCHES MOVE ACCORDING TO HIS WILL
TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE FACT THAT FOR SAWAMURA YAKUSHI IS THE WORST MATCHUP POSSIBLE,
WE CANNOT LET HIM HANDLE A CRUCIAL MATCH LIKE THAT, NOW CAN WE?

MIYUKI, WE'RE CALLING IT A NIGHT.
CLOSE IT WITH A STRAIGHT FASTBALL.
INDEED.
I WAS THINKING THE SAME THING, SIR
EH? IT'S OVER ALREADY?
BUT I BARELY WARMED UP MY SHOULDER YET!
ALRIGHT, THEN YOU CATCH THIS LAST ONE FOR HIM
GOT IT, SAWAMURA? I WANT A STRAIGHT FASTBALL!
YEAH... SURE.
A NEAT STRAIGHT FASTBALL WITH SPIN.

I TOLD YOU TIME AND TIME AGAIN THAT WHETHER BREAKING BALLS THRIVE OR DIE DEPENDS ON STRAIGHT FASTBALLS,
SPIN...
ON THE PRECISION WITH WHICH YOU CAN THROW THEM INTO THE CORNERS OF THE ZONE.
SO SHOW ME THE BEST STRAIGHT FASTBALL YOU CAN THROW AT THE MOMENT.

STRAIGHT FASTBALL...
TH-THE BEST...
AND NEAT, ON TOP OF THAT.
FOR ME, IT'S THE MOST DIFFICULT TASK.

How close to a straight line it will fly now!!
I SEE NOW...
BUT...
YOUR PITCHES ARE PRETTY SCARY BECAUSE THEY GO EVERYWHERE
THROW REEEEAL LIGHTLY!
THAT'S RIGHT...
THROW PROPERLY, WILL YOU...
YOUR THROWS... ARE DISGUSTING

THIS PITCH IS THE PROOF OF MY GROWTH.
THE PITCH
THAT WILL SHOW MY EVERY-THING!

漫画もアニメも絶好調！ 決勝直前巻頭カラー!!
単行本1～39巻、絶賛発売中!!

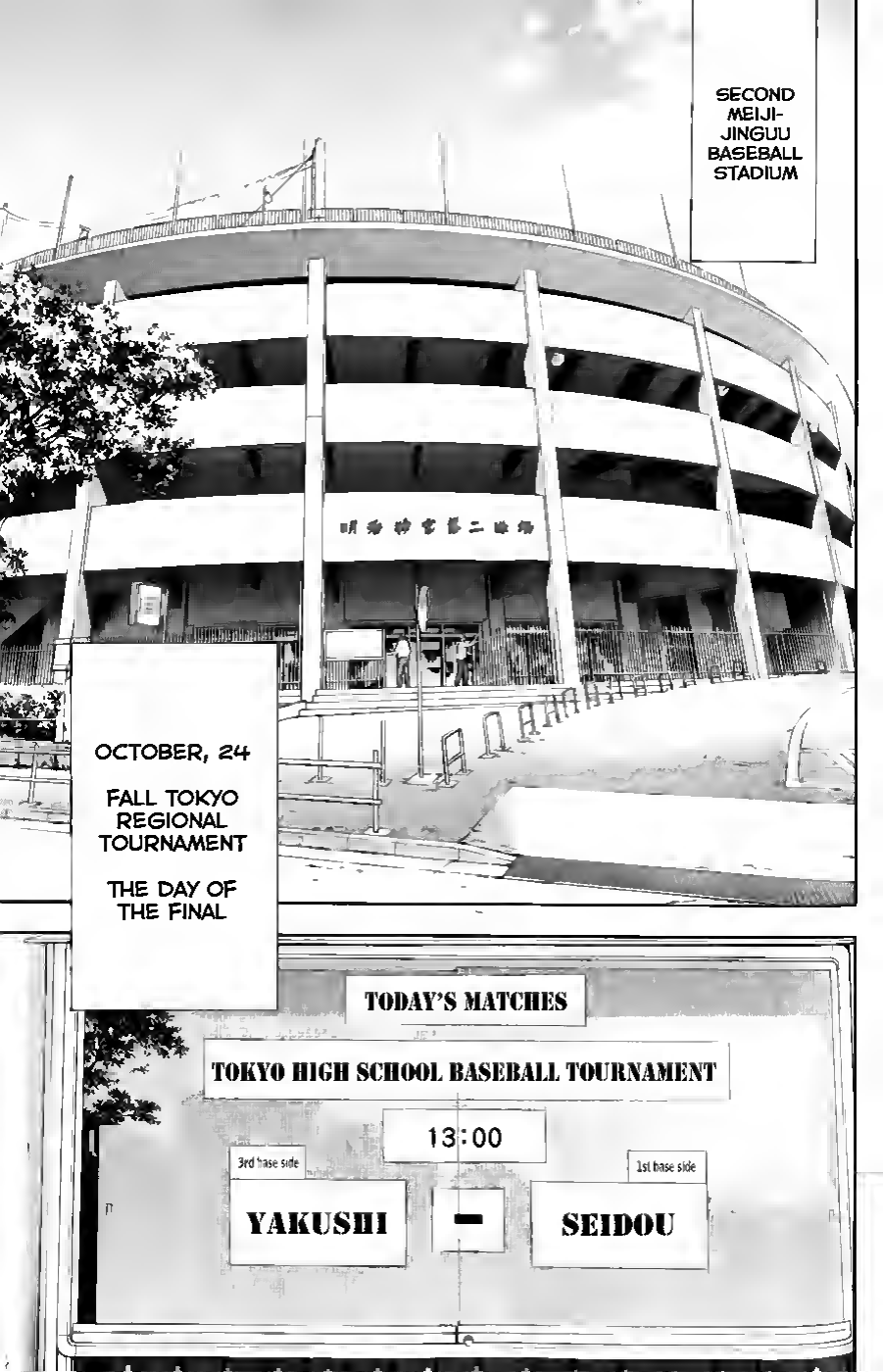
ACE of DIAMOND

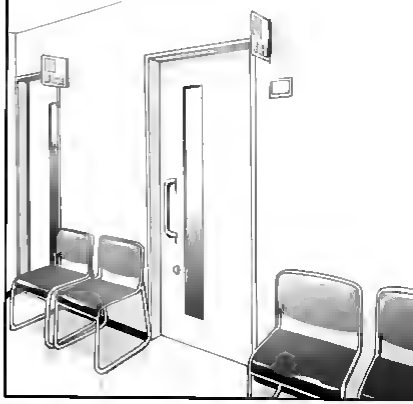
Yuji Terajima presents

CHAPTER 368 15℃, CLEAR

CHAPTER 368

15°C, CLEAR


SECOND MEIJI-JINGUU BASEBALL STADIUM
OCTOBER, 24
FALL TOKYO REGIONAL TOURNAMENT
THE DAY OF THE FINAL
TODAY'S MATCHES
TOKYO HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TOURNAMENT
13:00
3rd base side
YAKUSHI
-
1st base side
SEIDOU



...NO...
ANY PAIN?
LOOKS LIKE IT'S NOT SWOLLEN...

AND WHEN THERE'S NO SWELLING, I CAN MOVE FREELY...
I SEE. THEY DID A GOOD JOB TREATING YOU.

WHEN IT'S TAPPED, IT DOESN'T REALLY FEEL PAINFUL...

FOOL!
EHP THEN, I CAN PITCH...?
OH WELL... IT'S NOT AS BAD AS LAST TIME, SO NO REASON TO BE WORRIED, I BELIEVE.
DIDN'T I TELL YOU LAST TIME THAT SPRAINS ARE NOT TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY!
IF YOU PUSH YOURSELF, THIS SPRAIN CAN EASILY BECOME REPETITIVE AND SHORTEN YOUR LIFESPAN AS A PLAYER.
I UNDERSTAND THAT THE TICKET TO KOUSHIEN RIDES ON THAT MATCH
BUT TAKING THIS BOY'S FUTURE INTO CONSIDERATION, YOU MUST NOT LET HIM BE RECKLESS.
TESSHIN.

HE CAN PLAY FOR 1 INNING AT MOST,
AND IF THERE'S ANY PAIN, SUB HIM OUT THE SAME INSTANCE.
...YES, YOU DID.
DID I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?

HOW MANY YEARS IT'S BEEN?
SERIO-USLY?
I HEAR THEIR NEW SINGLE WAS AWESOME
I wish I could go to their live concert...

NDA!
YESTERDAY... IN THE END, ONLY JUN-SAN DID ANY HITTING...
MORE! THROW ME MORE BALLS, KOMINATO!
I THINK IT'S BETTER TO TONE THE FOENZY DOWN A LITTLE...
TODAY THE SENPAIS ARE COMING TO WATCH US!
I GOTTA STAND OUT AT ALL COSTS!

OSSHA !!!
THIS IS IT, TOTALLY IT!!!
DRAGGING ME OUT HERE FIRST THING IN THE MORNING...
DID THAT PITCH FEEL THAT GOOD YESTERDAY?
Heh heh
IT FELT ABSOLUTELY AWESOME!

...MY,
MY.

Oh
HIS PITCH GOT... FASTER?
THAT WAS SOME HIGH SPEED RIGHT THERE

AH... MIYUKI-SENPAI,
QUICK!
ONCE AGAIN!

Quick, before I forget it! I'm about to forget it!
JUST NOW, IT FELT LIKE I REALLY MANAGED TO TRANSFER ALL MY POWER TO THE BALL!
CALM DOWN, GEEZ.
YOU MAY THROW ANOTHER 10 BALLS.
...
HE'S BEYOND MY UNDER-STANDING.
PLEASE LISTEN TO PEOPLE'S PLEAS...!
I SAID ONLY 10 MORE.
DUE TO THE INCREDIBLE AMOUNT OF SPIN HE PUTS ON THE BALL, THERE IS ALMOST NO CHANGE IN THE BALL'S ACCELERATION IN ITS ENDPOINT COMPARED TO ITS STARTING POINT, SO TO THE BATTER THE PITCH FEELS LIKE A FAST ONE
HIS FLEXIBLE SWING MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO RELEASE THE BALL VERY LATE

INSTEAD OF LOSING SPEED, IT FEELS AS IF THE BALL ACCELERATES AT A MIDWAY POINT.
...THIS PITCH IS THE OPPOSITE OF THE CHANGEUP.
TO DRAW A COMPARISON..
...OH...

NO, YOU'RE DONE THERE, MORON! LET'S GO HAVE BREAKFAST!
YOU HAVE NO BUSINESS BURNING OUT BEFORE THE MATCH EVEN STARTED!
EH?!
WOOOW! IT FEELS SOOO GOOOOD!
CAN I THROW A FEW MORE PLEASE?
THE PITCH WE DIDN'T GET TO THROW DURING OUR SUMMER PRACTICE MATCH AGAINST YAKUSHI...
IF HE CAN THROW IT TO THE AREA AROUND TODOROKI'S CHEST--
MORNING, REI-CHAN.
DON'T WORRY, NOT FOR LONG. HE CAN BE REALLY PERSISTENT SOMETIMES, SO I FELT IT'D BE EASIER TO TAG ALONG FOR A BIT.
HOW LONG HAS HE BEEN THROWING?

TO THINK THAT AFTER HAVING TRIED VARIOUS TYPES OF PITCHES, ONE STILL CAN GET THIS EXCITED OVER THROWING A SIMPLE STRAIGHT FASTBALL...
VERY SAWAMURA-LIKE, I SUPPOSE.
SO.. WHAT ABOUT FURUYA'S CONDITION?
I SEE.. THE LIMIT IS 1 INNING.
KEEP IN MIND THAT EVEN THAT IS UNCERTAIN AND DEPENDS ON HIS STATE.
IF THERE'S ANY PAIN, HE WON'T BE ALLOWED TO PITCH AT ALL.

HAVING HIM AS A POSSIBLE RELIEF PITCHER IS PLENTY REASSURING AS IT IS.
HE'S A VITAL EXISTENCE FOR THE TEAM RIGHT NOW.
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE IT CAN BE HELPED...
THERE'RE THINGS THAT HAVE TO BE PUT INTO WORDS FOR THEM TO BE UNDERSTOOD, YOU KNOW?
HOW ABOUT YOU TELL HIM THAT DIRECTLY?
HE'D IMMEDIATELY TRY TO PUSH HIMSELF IF I DID
WE HAVE KAWAKAMI STARTING, AND THERE IS ALSO NOISYMURA.
THE QUESTION IS WHERE WE INSERT FURUYA'S INNING IN THIS CRUCIAL MATCH.
AND DON'T YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO ME, TOO?
N...no...

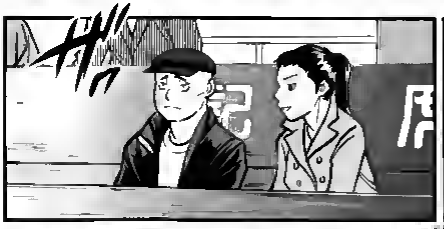
THE TIMING FOR PITCHER SWITCH WILL BE A MOST IMPORTANT KEYPOINT, RIGHT?
...YES.
IF FURUYA CANNOT BE USED IN TOMORROW'S MATCH,
THE TEAM WILL BE AT A CONSIDERABLE DISADVANTAGE.
...IT WILL BE ALL THANKS TO THAT PERSON, REGARDLESS OF WHAT ANYONE MIGHT SAY.
BUT IF THEY STILL MANAGE TO WIN DESPITE THAT...

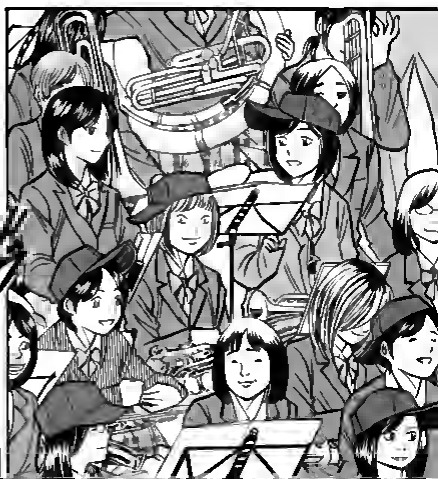
明治神宮第二球場

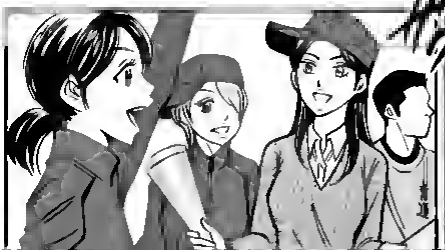
IT'S THE FINAL, YET THEY DON'T PLAY IT AT THE MAIN STADIUM?
THE 'SECOND' IN THE ST..DIUM'S NAME MAKES THE WHOLE THING LOOK CHEA...
THAT IDIOT! WHY DOESN'T HE REPLY TO MAIL FROM ME?
THIS MATCH SURE DRAWS A CROWD, HUH
THIS DOESN'T COUNT AS 'CROWD' IN MY BOOK
TEMPE-RATURE 15 °C
CLEAR
8
GAME START AT 1:00PM

ダイヤのA
13:00
3rd base side
AKUSHI
SEIDOU
SO SEIDOU'S MADE IT ALL THE WAY
TO THE FINALS, AFTER ALL
WHICH MEANS YOUR GUT FEELING WAS RIGHT ON THE MONEY, EH.

CHAPTER 369
THE SHOW MUST GO ON

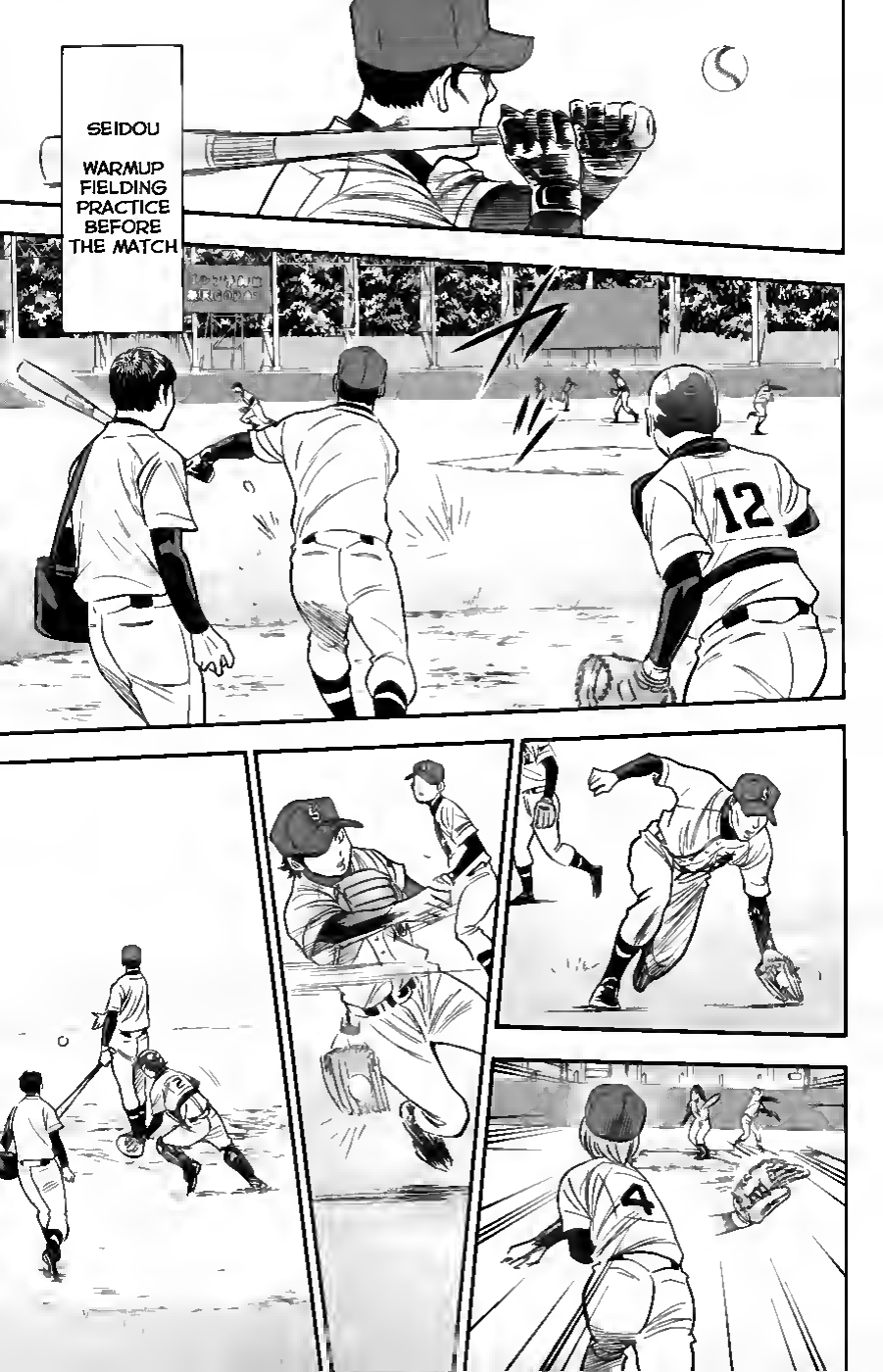






YAKUSHI
WARMUP FIELDING PRACTICE BEFORE THE MATCH
JUST AS YOU'D EXPECT FROM A TEAM PARTICIPATING IN THE FINAL
THE DIFFERENCE IN COMPARISON TO HOW THEY WERE IN THE SUMMER IS STRIKING
OH~~

KA HA HA HA HA
STILL, IT'S HARD TO OUTRIGHT CALL THIS PLAYER A BREACH IN THEIR DEFENSES
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN HIS UNBELIEVABLE PLAYS ENCOURAGE HIS TEAMMATES AND GIVE HIS TEAM THE MOMENTUM
KA HA HA HA
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE THROWING?!
DON'T JUMP EVERY SINGLE TIME!


SEIDOU
WARMUP FIELDING PRACTICE BEFORE THE MATCH
12

HE WAS CRAZY FAST WHEN CATCHING THE SECOND BASEMAN'S TOSS...
AND THEIR SHORT-STOP'S REALLY GOOD...
THOSE MOVEMENTS ARE NOTHING TO SNEEZE AT...

Ys
THEIR STARTING PITCHER IS KAWAKAMI, HUH...
SAVING THEIR ACE, AIN'T THEY. THEY SURE HAVE THE NERVE.
THAT FURUYA GUY SAVE OUR BATTERS THE HARDEST TIME...

Oh, like this!
It came like this and then like this!

QUIT ADMIRING THE OPPOSING TEAM!

SO THE STARTING THIRD BASEMAN IS HIGASA, EH...
HE'S TOO PSYCHED UP FOR HIS OWN GOOD
The ball is about to fly your way.
Shu!
Shu!
Shu!
AND HE'S PRONE TO BEING RANDOM AT TIMES, TOO...
Shu!
SHIT...
Yup, especially when it's so crowded here.
WATCHING IS TOTALLY MORE STRESSFUL THAN PLAYING!
I NEVER EXPECTED THE MAIN FORCES OF YOUR TEAM TO TURN UP AT THIS GAME
YOU GUYS NEVER CHANGE
WELL, SHIT!
NOW I WANNA GO THROW BACK TO HOME PLATE HARD, TOO!
ACTUALLY, YOU YOURSELVES ARE MAKING AN UNUSUAL SIGHT
IS NARUMIYA COMING AS WELL?
DUNNO. HE WASN'T EXACTLY EAGER YESTERDAY.

1
10
THE BRASS BAND IS HERE TODAY.
MAKES YOU THRILLED, LIKE BACK IN THE SUMMER TOURNAMENT.
YOUR PITCHING IS IN GOOD SHAPE,
NORI-SENPAI.

HEY
WE'RE PLAYING CATCH, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!
DONCHA DARE TO THROW! FAR BETTER PITCHES THAN NORI SENPAI!
OH, IT'S EIJUN! MUST BE EIJUN!
HIS VOICE IS SO LOUD THAT IT REACHES EVEN HERE!
KA
HA
HA
HA
HAHA
Come to watch the real...

GO LET ALL THESE PEOPLE ON THE BLEACHERS KNOW THAT THERE'S A PITCHER NAMED KAWAKAMI IN SEIDOU!
YOU HAD A CHANCE TO CHECK OUT YAKUSHI'S BATTING ORDER, NORI?
THEIR STARTING PITCHER IS MISHIMA, AND, SURPRISINGLY, THE ORDER IS SAME AS IN THE SEMIFINAL.
WA HA HA!
I'LL LET YOU WARM UP, BUT IF YOU FEEL ANY PAIN, YOU ARE TO HONESTLY INFORM ME THE SAME INSTANCE.
WE'LL DO AS THE DOCTOR SAID.
YOU'RE LATE! I'VE ALREADY GIVEN HIM A DRINK!
...UNDER-STOOD, SIR.
AFTER ALL, MY BENCH WARMER EXPERIENCE IS FAR GREATER THAN YOURS!

I AM THE ONE AT FAULT FOR GETTING MYSELF HURT...
SO I WILL OBEY YOUR ORDERS COACH
I DON'T WANT TO STOP HERE.
...HOWEVER, SEEING THAT I'M THE ONE CARRYING THE ACE NUMBER ON MY BACK...
I WANT THE TEAM TO NEED ME MORE--
MORE..
...IF YOU ORDER ME TO GO PLAY, I WILL GO PLAY

DONCHA ACT LIKE MY CARETAKER, DAMMIT!!!
HAHA...
AH CAN YOU, REALLY?
I CAN MANAGE GOING TO THE BATHROOM PERFECTLY ON MY OWN, THANK YOU!
I'LL KEEP YOU COMPANY
SAWA-MURA----! BEEN TO THE BATH-ROOM YET?
FROM THE LOOKS OF IT DURING THE WARMUP, HE SEEMS FINE.
PAKU

SOME TOUGH BASTARD
YOU ARE, HUH...

I want to concentrate here, you know.
Like this
IS IT THE SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY AS THE CAPTAIN...?
OR THE EGO AS A PLAYER ...?
...
IF YOU'RE THAT HELL-BENT ON BEING OBSTINATE,
TOUGH IT OUT TILL THE VERY END.

CRUMBLE DOWN ONLY AFTER WE HAVE WON!!!

YAKUSHI HIGH, A DARK HORSE THAT HAS ALL THE CHANCES TO BECOME ONE OF THE FAVORITES AND GO TO KOUSHIEN, THE FIRST IN THEIR HISTORY...
THIS IS THE FINAL OF THE FALL TOKYO REGIONAL TOURNAMENT.
OUT OF 260 SCHOOLS FROM BOTH EAST AND WEST TOKYO THAT PARTICIPATED IN THIS TOURNAMENT ONLY THESE 2 REMAIN:

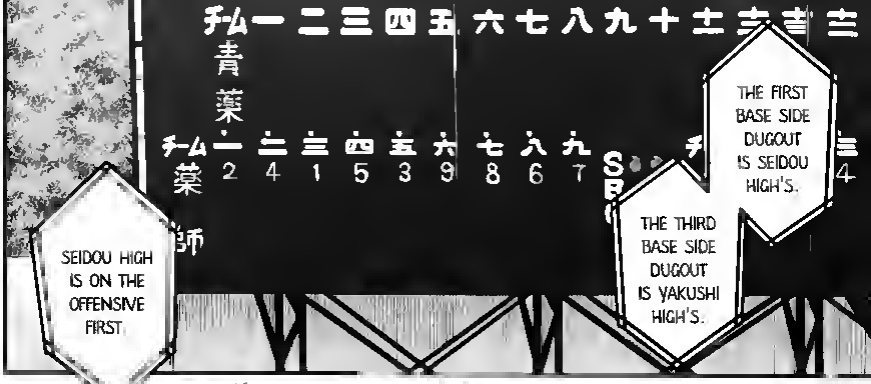
...AND SEIDOU HIGH THAT MADE IT TO THE FINALS OF THE RECENT BIG TOURNAMENTS TWICE IN A ROW
AND IS BENT ON REVIVING AS ONE OF THE KINGS AND GOING TO KOUSHIEN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 7 YEARS.

Ys
FINALLY, IT'S TIME FOR...
BOW!
OISHO
KA HA HA HA
...THE FINAL!!!

Yakushi High			Seidou High	
Akiba	C	1	SS	Kuramochi
Masuda	2B	2	CF	Toujou
Mishima	P	3	2B	Kominato
Todoroki	3B	4	C	Miyuki
Sanada	1B	5	1B	Maezono
Hirahata	RF	6	RF	Shirasu
Abe	CF	7	3B	Higasa
Yonehara	SS	8	P	Kawakami
Moriyama	LF	9	LF	Asou

CHAPTER 370

BREAKTHROUGH


THE FIRST BASE SIDE DUGOUT IS SEIDOU HIGH'S.
THE THIRD BASE SIDE DUGOUT IS YAKUSHI HIGH'S.
SEIDOU HIGH IS ON THE OFFENSIVE FIRST.

SEIDOU CHANGED THEIR BATTING ORDER
TOUJOU IS BATTING 2-HOLE, HUH.

FURUYA IS BENCHED.
SHIRASU WAS MOVED DOWN THE LINEUP TO MAKE UP FOR THE LACK OF FURUYA'S BATTING POWER THERE, HUH

OK, RIGHT FIELD.
NUMBER-1 CATCHER
AKIBA
KA HA HA HA

LET'S GET THE LEADOFF MAN OUT FIRST!
NUMBER 4
THIRD BASEMAN
TODOROKI
LET'S GET THE LEADOFF MAN OUT FIRST, MISSHIMA.
NUMBER 5
FIRST BASEMAN
SANADA
NO MATTER WHAT THEY SAY...
FU FU FU ...
NUMBER 3
PITCHER
MISHIMA
THE ACES OF BOTH TEAMS AREN'T THE STARTING PITCHERS BECAUSE THEY HAD TO PITCH YESTERDAY, I PRESUME?
I'M SURE IT'S THE COACH'S WAY OF SAYING THAT I'LL BE THE NEXT ACE!
I'M THE STARTING PITCHER IN THIS ALL IMPORTANT MATCH.
Coach
I JUST HOPE HE'LL LAST A COUPLE OF INNINGS

WHEN TO SEND THE ACES TO THE MOUND...
THIS IS WHAT LOOKS TO BE THE KEY TO VICTORY IN THIS MATCH...
TOP OF THE FIRST, SEIDOU HIGH'S ATTACK.
BATTING FIRST, SHORTSTOP, KURAMOCHI-KUN.
3

WE FACED HIM IN THE SUMMER PRACTICE GAME, SO I HAVE THE IDEA OF WHAT HIS PITCHING IS LIKE

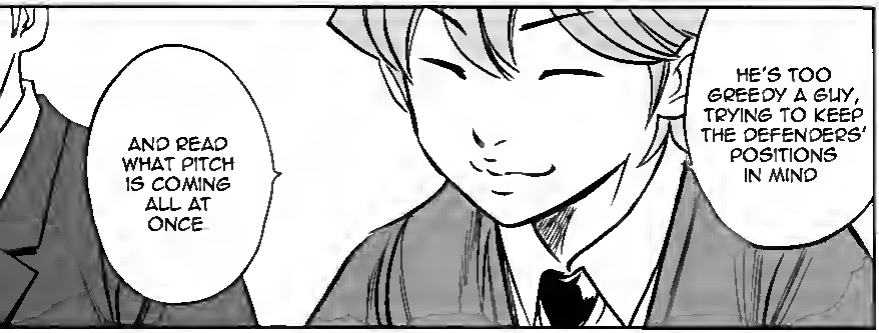
Cheer for me
more~
Y

KURAMOCHI-SENPAI, JUST LET IT HIT THE BAT
AND ROLL!
HIS STYLE IS DOMINATED BY FORKBALLS, SO I'LL JUST GIVE UP ON ALL THE LOW PITCHES FOR NOW.
6
annoying
YOU HAVE YOUR LEGS AFTER ALL!
GO, KURA-MOCHI!
OBSERVANT AS EVER, HUH...
IF YOU'RE THAT HELL-BENT ON BEING OBSTINATE
TOUGH IT OUT TILL THE VERY END

THIS FINAL IS A STRAIGHT ROAD TO THE SENBATSU.
THE MOUND IN THIS ALL IMPORTANT GAME WAS ENTRUSTED TO A FIRST YEAR PITCHER, MISHIMA.
SWING?
IS HE GOING TO SWING?
OR OUT FOR A SAFETY BUNT?
RATHER THAN WALKING HIM AS A RESULT OF BEING OVERLY CAUTIOUS, IT'S BETTER TO FIGHT HIM IN THE ZONE AND WALK HIM AS A RESULT OF BEING HIT!
THIS GUY ISN'T SCARY IF WE DON'T LET HIM GET ON BASE.
I KNOW, GEE.
I'LL SHUT HIM OUT BY FORCE!

MY DUTY IS
TO GET ON BASE.
TO CREATE AN OPENING FOR A BREAKTHROUGH
AND RAISE OUR CHANCES.

うぎっ
HE'S JUST STRUGGLING TO MEET THE BALL RIGHT, IS ALL.
KURAMOCHI IS BEING DOGGED TODAY, EH.
LIKE YOU.


AND READ WHAT PITCH IS COMING ALL AT ONCE
HE'S TOO GREEDY A GUY, TRYING TO KEEP THE DEFENDERS' POSITIONS IN MIND

Yeah little...
IN MY OPINION THOUGH, HIS BATTING AVERAGE WOULD GO UP IF ONLY HE COULD CONCENTRATE SOLELY ON HITTING WHEN AT BAT.

パァン
BALL!
Fuh
HE DIDN'T SWING EVEN AT THAT, HUH..
FULL COUNT!
CRAP...
IF HE'S GETTING A WALK FROM ME EITHER WAY, THEN—

THE BATTER PULLS IT!
ALRIGHT!
IT HITS THE GROUND BEFORE THE RIGHT FIELDER'S POSITION!
THE LEADOFF MAN KURAMOCHI GETS ON BASE!
He HIT!
That's right!
That's how it's supposed to be!

HE IMMEDIATELY GAINS A CONSIDERABLE LEAD...!
DON'T LET HIM RUN EASILY!

3
HE TOOK OFF THE MOMENT HE SAW AN OPENING!
!

THAT WAS TRULY LIGHTINING FAST!
PUTTING HIS NIMBLE LEGS TO USE, THE RUNNER IS NOW ON SECOND, WITH NO OUTS!
L-LEG.. LEG...
WOOW
LEG INCARNATION!
LEG MONSTER!
LEG HUNK!
COME UP WITH BETTER PRAISES, DAMMIT!
WHEN THIS PLAYER GETS ON BASE, THE OFFENSIVE POWER OF THE TEAM DOUBLES.
WHO GETS ON SECOND BASE, ON ONE WEAK HIT, GEEZ!
HE'S INVINSIBLE, HEH.

PROVIDED HE GETS ON BASE, THAT IS.
YUUTA, BALL TO FIRST!
THE BATTER CHOSE THE SAFETY OF A SACRIFICE BUNT,
I'M SO GLAD I SOMEHOW MANAGED TO BUNT THE VERY FIRST PITCH
Phew
ADVANCING THE RUNNER TO THIRD.
NOTHING LESS FROM YOU, TOUJOU!
BUT THIS IS HOW YOU BUNT EVEN BETTER!

AND IT IS TIME FOR THE SEIDOU CLEANUPS, STARTING WITH...
...NUMBER 3, SECOND BASEMAN, KOMINATO-KUN.
TOKYO
I HEAR HE HIT A HOMER IN THE MATCH AGAINST OUYA
WE CAN GET OUR HOPES UP, NO?
ACTUALLY I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU ANIKI

FOCUS ON THE BATTER!
GO, KOMI-NATO!
CALM DOWN, YUUTA!
Haru-mun
I'm counting on you
SOMETHING LIKE THIS DOESN'T EVEN COUNT AS A PINCH IN MY BOOK!
THROUGH JUST HOW MANY BINDS YOU THINK WE'VE BEEN THIS SUMMER?

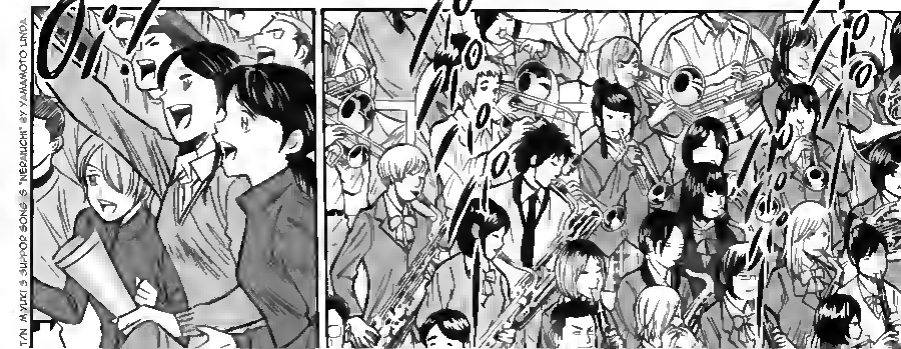
BALL FOUR!
4 FASTBALLS RESULT IN A WALK! IS IT BECAUSE THE PITCHER IS TOO NERVOUS?
WITH THIS, IT'S 1 OUT AND RUNNERS ON FIRST AND THIRD.
What is he doing? No, seriously?

NEXT UP IS THE ONE WHO DREW THE LINE IN YESTERDAY'S MATCH WITH HIS WALK-OFF HOME RUN.
POSSESSING THE EVER GROWING OVERWHELMING PRESENCE
2
AS THE CAPTAIN AND THE MAIN GUN...

NUMBER 4, CATCHER, MIYUKI-KUN.
I DON'T HAVE HOPES FOR YOU FOR MORE THAN SIMPLY BEING ON THE FIELD IN THIS MATCH.
Die, pretty boy!

NUMBER 4, CATCHER, MIYUKI-KUN.
YOU KNOW, WHEN I WAS ENTRUSTED WITH BATTING FOURTH, AT FIRST I WAS SO NERVOUS THAT I WOULD GO STIFF ALL OVER.
SO AT THE TIME THE NEW TEAM WAS FORMED, MY BATTING AVERAGE PLUMMETED DOWN PRETTY HARD.
ダイヤのA
ACTU-ALLY, I DO.
I MYSELF WAS SO DESPERATE AT THE SAME PERIOD THAT I STOPPED SEEING EVERYTHING AROUND ME
AND THAT LITTLE BASTARD NEVER PASSED UP A CHANCE TO JEER AT ME
If you don't swing the bat, nothing will come hitting it on it's own!
You're not a sergeant, you know.
YOU HAVE NO IDEA JUST HOW MUCH I FORCED MYSELF TO PRACTICE-SWING MY BAT SO I COULD FINALLY SHUT THAT TWERP UP!
INASHIRO

CHAPTER 371 POSITIVE MIND



T.N. Ayuzi & Shinobu Sone © "Nebulight" by Yamamoto Unoa

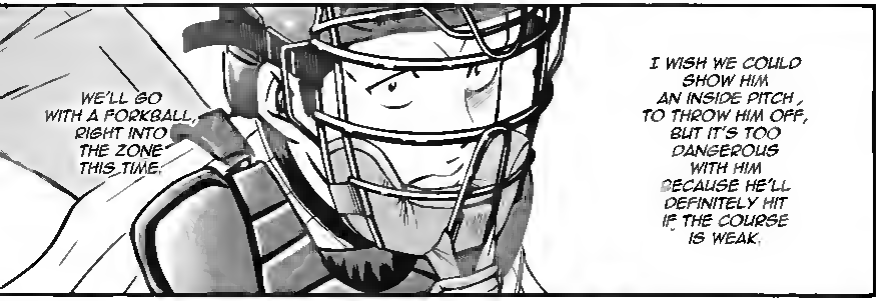
BUT HE'S NOT THE TYPE TO FEEL PRESSURED WHEN OTHERS HAVE HIGH HOPES FOR HIM, IS HE.
IT LOOKS LIKE HE, TOO, HAD A LOT OF DOUBTS THOUGH.
YOU SEEM TO HAVE A HIGH OPINION OF HIM.
I STILL HATE HIM.
NOW THAT NORI IS FINALLY THE STARTER AFTER A LONG WHILE, I'D SURE LIKE TO GIVE HIM A RUN OR TWO AS A PRESENT.
Oi!
GO!
EVERY-BODY IS WATCH-ING!
THEY'RE WATCHING YOU!
SO PLEASE, BECOME A MAN SOMEHOW!
MIYUKI!

BOOM!!

THE FIRST PITCH IS LOW AND AWAY!
STRIKE!
HOW A GUY WHO JUST GAVE UP A WALK ON 4 BALLS, ALL OF WHICH WERE FASTBALLS,
CAN SUDDENLY THROW A CLEAN STRIKE LIKE THAT?!
ALRIGHTY!
NICE BALL, MISSHI-MA!
IN THEIR PREVIOUS MATCH THE PITCHER SUCCESSFULLY ATTACKED HIM WITH INSIDE PITCHES, BUT DESPITE THAT, IN THE END
THIS GUY STILL WENT AND HIT ONE OF THOSE INSIDE PITCHES RIGHT OUT OF THE PARK.
HE DIDN'T EVEN ATTEMPT TO SWING...
Fwh

...IS A TALL ORDER...
TO GET A GUY LIKE THIS OUT...
Booo
THE SECOND PITCH IS A FORK-BALL
BALL, AS IT WENT LOWER THAN THE ZONE
2
POW!

FEARLESSNESS, OR RATHER THICKHEADEDNESS...
THIS MIGHT BE MISSHIMA'S GREATEST WEAPON.
HEH... HE PLUNGED HEAD FIRST INTO A DIRECT CONFRONTATION EVEN WITH A BATTER LIKE THAT ONE, EH.


WE'LL GO WITH A FORKBALL, RIGHT INTO THE ZONE THIS TIME.
I WISH WE COULD SHOW HIM AN INSIDE PITCH, TO THROW HIM OFF, BUT IT'S TOO DANGEROUS WITH HIM BECAUSE HE'LL DEFINITELY HIT IF THE COURSE IS WEAK.

A PINCH IS NOT A TRIAL...
IT'S A REWARD TO LET YOU GROW MORE
YOU CAN EVEN SAY IT'S A GOD-SENT GIFT
3
青海

BOOM
HOW DO YOU LIKE THIS ULTRA POSITIVE THINKING OF MINE?!
FROM HERE--

THIS IS WHAT HE WAS WAITING FOR?!
WHOA!

AAA
AAA

Ouch
Tch!
YUUTA!
YONE-SAN!
BOW!
BALL TO SECOND!

SHUN
---!!!
TOKYO
TOKYO

DOUBLE PLAY!
A HARD LINER TO THE PITCHER MISHIMA, WHO RESPONDS WITH A BEAUTIFUL FINE PLAY!
HA-HAHA
HE HIMSELF WAS TAKEN ABACK THE MOST, AFTER ALL
THAT WAS A TOTAL FLUKE THOUGH
SEIDOU'S OUTTA LUCK!
Mishima's thickheadedness is a force to be reckoned with!

A SHARP HIT DOESN'T TURN THE PERFECT CHANCE TO SCORE FOR SEIDOU INTO POINTS.
Oh well, that's as far as your ability goes at the moment.
SORRY, NORI!
NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT.
LET'S JUST MOVE ON!
NAH, IT COULDN'T BE HELPED
RETIRING THE LEADOFF BATTER COMES FIRST, KAWAKAMI.
GO PLANT THE SEEDS OF SUCCESS..

SHU SHU SHUU!
GO ALL OUT, NORI.
IT'S YOUR MOMENT OF GLORY!
PLEASE DO YOUR BEST
NORI-SENPAI,
I'm pretty sure doing something crazy is a no-no...
GO AND DO SOMETHING CRAZY!
I'LL BE JOY GO MO- NT...
DO IT, NORI-SENPAI!
GOOD GRIEF...

HEARING SUCH THINGS FROM THE TWO OF YOU IS WHAT PUTS THE MOST PRESSURE ON ME...!
LET'S DO THIS!!!
BOTTOM OF THE FIRST.
OH, IT'S THE SIDE-ARMER
HE'S THEIR STARTER, NOT THE FURUYA GUY, HUH...
AND IT IS KAWAKAMI, WHOM SEIDOU PUTS ON THE MOUND AS THEIR STARTING PITCHER FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE FALL TOURNAMENT.

WHAT KIND OF PITCHING WILL WE SEE FROM HIM AGAINST THE POWERFUL BATTING LINEUP OF YAKUSHI HIGH?
BATTING FIRST, CATCHER, AKIBA-KUN.
THIS IS THE DAY
YOU'VE BEEN PREPARING FOR.
NOW, ALL THAT'S LEFT...
10

...IS TO THROW ALL OF YOUR EMOTIONS...
THE FIRST PITCH GOES TO THE INSIDE!
ALRIGHT!
STRIKE!
...AT THEM!
Nice ball!

Good~
Very good, KawaKami!
I WANT THAT PITCH TO LEAVE A LASTING IMPRESSION ON YAKUSHI'S DUGOUT, AND LET US DICTATE THIS GAME'S PACE.
GOOD.
HIS ARM IS SWINGING JUST FINE, AND HIS PITCHES CONDITION IS GOOD.
NOW,
THAT PITCH...
YOU READY?
2

...THE GROUNDWORK FOR OUR FIGHT AGAINST TODOROKI.
THIS WILL BECOME...
NOW, COME AT THEM,
WITH THE SINKER!

ダイヤのA
RETIRING THEM OUT IS NO EASY TASK
YAKUSHI'S CORE BATTERS ARE TODOROKI AND SANADA
TO USE ALL THE WEAPONS AT OUR DISPOSAL EFFECTIVELY
IN MY OPINION, THE RESULT WILL DEPEND ON WHETHER OR NOT WE WILL BE ABLE
INDEED
WHAT WE NEED FROM IT IS A LASTING IMPACT RATHER THAN ACCURACY
IN KAWAKAMI'S CASE IT'S THE SINKER, ISN'T IT
IT'S ALL ABOUT WHEN YOU ASK FOR THE PITCH THE OPPONENTS ARE NOT AWARE OF YET

SHOWING IT TO YAKUSHI EARLY ON
CAN PUT THEM AT OUR MERCY....
CHAPTER.372
LET'S BE DARING

LOW AND OUTSIDE.

IT SUNK?!
Wow!

WOW~~! IT LANDED IN A STINKY PLACE, BUT HE HANDLED IT WITH EASE!
ALRIGHT!
THAT SHORT-STOP SURE CAN MOVE!
YOU MOVE LIKE A FERRET!
FERRET!
ZIP IT, BENCH!
I'D SAY THE ANIMAL SHOULD BE WILDER, SO A WEASEL IS A BETTER COMPARISON
WHY ARE YOU SPEAKING UP ALL OF A SUDDEN?!

THE BALL FRIGGIN' DROPPED WHILE MOVING AWAY TO THE OUTSIDE.
WHAT HAPPENED THERE?
HUH?!
BUT THEY DIDN'T USE THAT PITCH AGAINST SEIKOU, DID THEY?!
IF WE HADN'T, THEY WOULD HAVE DEEMED THE SINKER PERFECTLY HITTABLE
I DON'T CARE IF IT'S OUTSIDE THE ZONE, BUT WATCH OUT FOR THE COURSE, MAKE IT MORE SEVERE.
IT'S A RELIEF THAT WE MANAGED TO GET HIM OUT
NUMBER 2
MASUDA

FOUL!
TCH
THAT SLIDER OF HIS WAS ALREADY TROUBLE-SOME ENOUGH.
AND NOW A SINKER TO BOOT ...?

AND THE PITCHER FINISHES IT WITH A SLIDER!
THE BATTER IS STUCK OUT!
Nice ball!
IS THAT ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY RIGHT NOW?
Squirrel...
ESPECIALLY AROUND THE CHEEKS!
I KNOW! YOU RESEMBLE A SQUIRREL, NORI-SENPAI!
CAME TO WARM UP
KA HA HA HA
HEHE... THINK THAT'S GONNA WORK WITH ME, HEH?

OH, GIVE US A BREAK. IT'S SUNDAY, FOR PETE'S SAKE.
TODAY'S MATCHES
TOKYO HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TOURNA
13:00
AKUSHI
SEIDOU

ONE MORE WIN - AND THEY ARE AT KOUSHIEN! AWESOME, RIGHT?
I WANTED TO VISIT A BASEBALL STADIUM ONCE
WHY DO WE EVEN HAVE TO TAG ALONG TO CHEER FOR THEM?

I HEARD NOTHING ABOUT OUR SCHOOL'S BASEBALL TEAM BEING STRONG THOUGH
REMEMBER? WE HAVE THAT WEIRD GUY FROM THE BASEBALL TEAM IN OUR CLASS.

TCH! WHAT A PAIN.

WHEN YOU TRY TALKING TO HIM, HE STARTS ACTING REAL WEIRD
AH, I REMEMBER NOW THAT REALLY QUIET GUY, RIGHT?
WELL, THAT GUY'S A TOTAL BENCH-WARMER, I BET
A HIT TO CENTER FIELD DESPITE BEING JAMMED!
YEAH
He sure has a hard swing, eh...

HAHAHA
Coach
NUMBER 3, MISHIMA, HAS SUCCESSFULLY GOT ON BASE!
EH?
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
AND... THIS THUNDEROUS CHEERING!

TOO CONSPICIOUS TO BE CONTAINED TO JUST THE TOKYO SCALE ANYMORE!
KA KA KA KA
BATTING FOURTH FOR THE STEADFAST YAKUSHI, TODOROKI RAICHI!
GO NATIONAL!
I CAME HERE TO WATCH YOU SPECIFI-CALLY!
TODOROKI! THERE HE COMES!

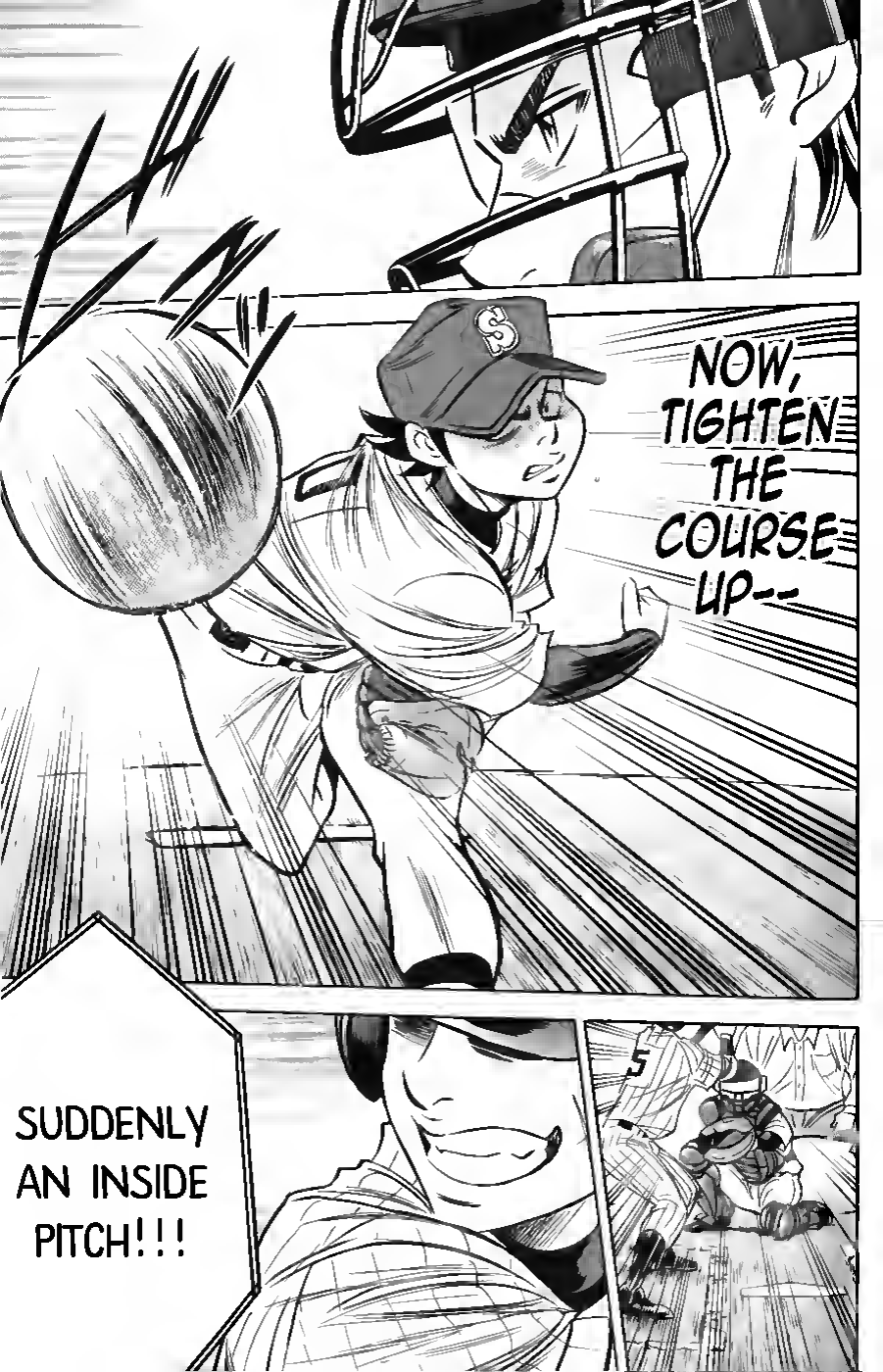
HE HIT A HOMERUN IN THE PREVIOUS MATCH,
AND TO DATE, IN THIS TOURNAMENT ALONE, THIS BATTER CAN BOAST 7 HOMERUNS ON HIS RECORD!
PEOPLE REALLY CAN GET THIS PUMPED FOR BASE-BALL?
THIS IS HIS FIRST AT-BAT TODAY, WITH A RUNNER ON FIRST!

WHAT KIND OF BATTING WILL HE SHOW US TODAY?
THIS PITCHER'S PRETTY FRAGILE MENTALLY
IF HE GETS A HOMER HIT OFF HIM, THAT'LL BE IT FOR HIM, RAICHI

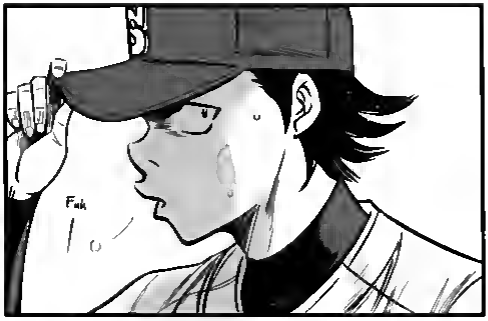
青道
I WANT US TO BE DARING HERE.
THIS IS ONLY THE FIRST INNING, AND TAKING HIS FUTURE AT-BATS INTO CONSIDERATION,
THE FIRST PITCH WILL BE--
ID
3

THE SINKER RIGHT FROM THE START!
A LITTLE OUTSIDE THE ZONE, BALL!

IT'S THE SECOND PITCH!
AN OUTSIDE ONE!
BALL AS WELL!
KA HA HA HA
THAT WAS A GOOD COURSE.
YES, BUT IT MISSED.
IS THE BATTERY AVOING THE FIGHT?


NOW, TIGHTEN THE COURSE UP--
SUDDENLY AN INSIDE PITCH!!!

Upsy!
A FOUL DOWN THE FIRST BASE LINE!



Ace of Diamond

次ページの記事で
巨人・阿部選手登場&
重大告知!!

俺ら、盛り上げてナンボだろ!?

最新40巻&ガイドブック発売記念!!
今週は超豪華4本立て43ページ!!

1 青道対薬師！ 激アツの決勝戦!!
2 倉持の秘められた過去が明かされる!!
特別番外編「OutRun」!!
3 巨人軍・阿部慎之助選手インタビュー!!
4 前代未聞のイベント情報!!

三高・天久が表紙の40巻と
『公式ガイドブック 表』は
3月17日(月)同時発売!!

ダイヤのA エース

CHAPTER 373
LIKE A DIFFERENT PERSON ENTIRELY

CHAPTER 373

LIKE A DIFFERENT PERSON ENTIRELY

I CAUGHT IT!!!
THE THIRD PITCH RESULTS IN
A FOUL DOWN THE FIRST BASE LINE!
Fuh
KHHHH
AAAA
A SUDDEN INSIDE THROW!
HE HAS IT IN HIM TO ATTACK, AFTER ALL!
NICE BALL...
NEXT...

TO THE AREA AROUND THE KNEES,
ON THE SAME COURSE
AMAHISA'S PITCH THAT BROUGHT TODOROKI DOWN
A SLIDER!!
5
10

Eek!
WHOA!
WOW!!!
SHIRASU!
HAHAHA

AND IT FLIES TO AN UNHANDY PLACE IN RIGHT FIELD!
KA HA HA HA
THIRD AND FOURTH BATTERS HIT IN SEQUEN--
KA HA
THE BATTED BALL WAS TOO FAST, BECOMING A GROUNDER TO THE RIGHT!
パァン
NO, THE SITUATION IS STILL DANGEROUS!

THE RUNNER WAS STOPPED FROM ADVANCING TO THIRD.
BUT THAT RIGHT FIELDER ALSO DID AN AWE-SOME JOB CATCHING IT.
HE DID GREAT HITTING A SLIDER ON THAT COURSE.
IT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH THAT WE COULD GET HIM OUT IN A SINGLE PITCH.
THANKS, SHIRASU.
SEEN THE POWER OF THAT BATTED BALL?
THAT BATTER WAS PRETTY AWE-SOME!
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE STILL REVIVING OUR PREVIOUS MATCH.
YOU WEREN'T EVEN BEING CORNERED COUNT-WISE, THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO NEED TO GO AFTER A TRICKY PITCH LIKE THAT, RAICHI.
THE NEXT BATTER TO STEP UP INTO THE BATTER'S BOX IS...

...THE PLAYER WHO BROUGHT A TURNAROUND WITH HIS RBI IN YESTERDAY'S MATCH...
NUMBER 5, FIRST BASEMAN, SANADA-KUN.
High stakes already!

THE PILLAR, SUPPORTING BOTH YAKUSHI'S OFFENSE AND DEFENSE.
A HIGHLY DANGEROUS PLAYER TO WATCH OUT FOR.
THAT OUTSTANDING ABILITY TO FOCUS WHEN THE SITUATION CALLS FOR IT...
IN A SENSE, YOU HAVE TO BE EVEN MORE ON GUARD WITH THIS BATTER THAN WITH TODOROKI...
TO ME, IT LOOKED LIKE HE NARROWED DOWN HIS AIM, WAITING SPECIFICALLY FOR A FASTBALL IN THEIR PREVIOUS MATCH...
THEN WE'LL GO FOR THE COUNT...

...WITH BREAKING BALLS TO THE ZONE AND FASTBALLS ON BORDERLINE COURSES.
10
2 OUTS, RUNNERS ON FIRST AND SECOND, AND WE'RE ABOUT TO WITNESS THE NOTABLE FIRST PITCH...
HA HA HA

AND THAT PRETTY BOY CATCHER MAY HAVE NOTICED THAT...
SANADA TARGETED ONLY FASTBALLS IN THE PREVIOUS MATCH...
SO FOR YOUR FIRST AT-BAT TRY TARGETING ONLY BREAKING BALLS WITH ALL YOUR WORTH.
ALL FOUR OF YOUR AT-BATS IN THIS MATCH WILL PROBABLY COME AT CRUCIAL TIMES.
THE GAME IS LONG.
PUT THE FIRST CHINK IN OUR OPPONENTS' ARMOR BY (SHAKING) THEM UP MENTALLY!
EH?

THE BATTER HITS THE SLIDER WITH A PERFECTLY TIMED SWING!
A HIT TO RIGHT FIELD!
HE WENT FOR A BREAKING BALL ALL OF A SUDDEN?!
WHA ...?
A LONG HIT!
KA
HA
HA
HA
YEAH!

SHIRA-SU!!!
GET IT!!!
MIYUKI MIGHT BE INJURED SOME-WHERE.
WHEN I HEARD KURAMOCHI SAY IT, IT DAWNED ON ME ANEW.
JUST HOW MUCH THAT GUY'S EXISTENCE MEANS FOR OUR TEAM, SO BETWEEN THE TWO OF US FOR NOW.
"IF IT'S HIM, HE CAN DO IT."
"IF IT'S HIM, HE CAN HIT."
AND NEVER ONCE HAD IT OCCURRED TO US THAT WE TOOK HIM AND HIS ABILITIES FOR GRANTED WAY TOO MUCH

IF MIYUKI CAN'T CONTINUE PLAYING IN THIS MATCH...

H-HE ACTUALLY CAUGHT IT!!!
Shirasu-senpaaaai!
WHAT A BRILLIANT PLAY BY RIGHT FIELDER SHIRASU!!!
Wow...
NOT TO MENTION HE'S THE CAPTAIN AND FOURTH BATTER NOW -
SOMEONE YOU CAN'T IMITATE NO MATTER HOW YOU TRY!
JUST THAT ALONE IS ALREADY SOMETHING AMAZING
PARTICIPATING IN ONE MATCH AFTER ANOTHER
I saw something totally awesome!
From apclose!
Wow!

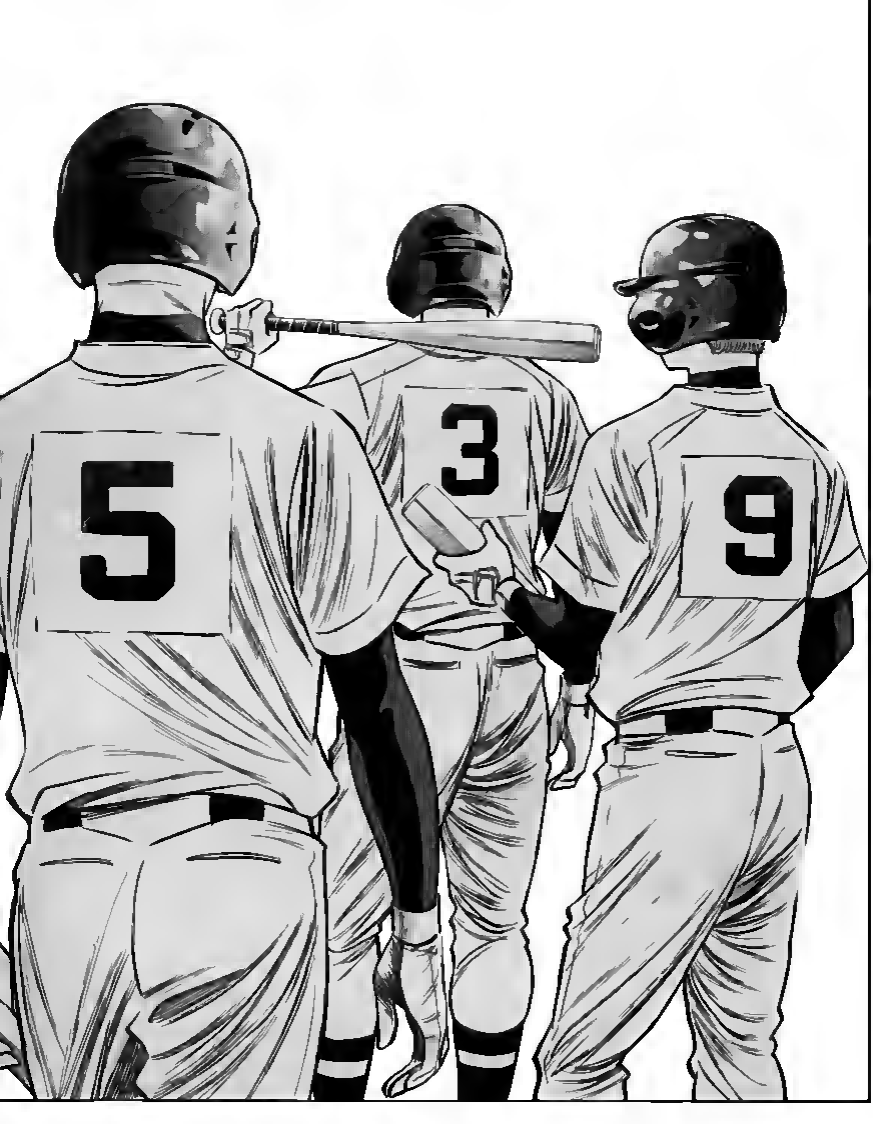
AT THE VERY LEAST, I WANT TO SHOW MY GRATITUDE
THROUGH CONTRIBUTING WITH MY PLAYS...
RUN! NOW!
TO SHIRASU-SENPAI!
ALRIGHT, EVERYBODY, GIVE ANOTHER BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE
HE CAUGHT SHIRASU!
SAWAMURA YOU'RE BEING A PAIN
BUT BOTH PARTIES' FLAWLESS DEFENSE ALLOWED NEITHER TO OPEN THE SCORING
BOTH TEAMS HAD CHANCES IN THE FIRST INNING.

TRULY THE GAME OPENER BECOMING OF THE FINAL!
Who'd catch that, normally!
AND YOUR CAP! YOUR CAP!
RAICHI~~! YOUR GLOVE!!!
WE SURE CAME JUST IN TIME FOR SOME STAR PLAY, EH
NOW THAT I LOOK AROUND THERE'RE HARDLY ANY VACANT SEATS LEFT

EH...?
H-HUH ...?
KAHAHAHA
RAICHI~~ YOU CAN'T GO EMPTY-HANDED~~
DID YOU EAT YOUR BANANA?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING WITHOUT YOUR GLOVE, GEE!

EEEH~~?! WH-WHEN THE ANNOUNCER SAID "TODOROK!"...
THEY MEANT THAT TODOROK!?!
Y-YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING...
THE GUY IS LIKE A DIFFERENT PERSON ENTIRELY IN CLASS!!!

ZONO! GO FOR IT!
STARTING THE ATTACK, NUMBER 5, FIRST BASEMAN, MAEZONO-KUN.
TOP OF THE SECOND, SEIDOU HIGH IS ON THE OFFENSIVE.
STRUT YOUR STUFF, HEAR ME?!
EXCEPT YOU, I DIDN'T LET HIM DO ANY HITTING
I EVEN TAGGED ALONG WITH YOUR PRACTICE YESTERDAY!



CHAPTER 374

PRESENT

110
THE FIRST PITCH IS AN OUSIDE ONE.
THE BATTER IS LEFT EMPTY-HANDED.

WE'LL ATTACK WITH ONLY ONE INSIDE PITCH, ON A TIGHT COURSE.
AND THEN, FINISH HIM OFF WITH AN OUTSIDE ONE.
STILL, KEEPING HIS FUTURE AT-BATS IN MIND, WE HAVE TO THROW TO THE INSIDE HERE.
WE ALREADY KNOW THAT THIS BATTER IS GOOD AT HITTING INSIDE PITCHES.
HE SWUNG TOO WIDE.
COULD IT BE THAT HE WANTED TO SHOW OFF SO MUCH THAT ENDED UP TENSING MORE THAN NECESSARY?
ALL BECAUSE YOU EGGED HIM ON, JUN
HMPH. HE'S ALWAYS TOO HIGH STRUNG, SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW.
JUN-SAN, HOW ABOUT YOU TAKE A LOOK AT MY SWING ALREADY PLEASE?
HUH?
YOU SWING THE BAT EVERY FRIGGIN DAY SO WHAT'S WRONG WITH LETTING ME SWING FOR A BIT TOO?
TUAN!

THE ONLY PURPOSE SUCH RECKLESS BAT-SWINGING BEFORE A MATCH SERVES IS GIVE YOU SELF-SATISFACTION
THAT'S PRECISELY WHY!
EHH?! BUT IT'S US WHO HAVE A MATCH, Y'KNOW!
I INTEND TO DO EVERYTHING I'M ACTUALLY ABLE TO DO AND MAKE MY SWING WORK.
I KNOW... THAT'S WHY INSTEAD OF TRYING TO DO THE IMPOSSIBLE WITH HIGH RISKS OF DESTROYING MY BATTING FORM.
JUN-SAN WEREN'T YOU GOING TO CHECK MY SWING?!
SHUT UP!
TEST-TAKERS ARE REAL BUSY. DON'T MAKE LIGHT OF TESTS!
YOU DON'T NEED ME HERE ANYMORE THEN.
EH?
I SEE. GOOD TO HEAR.

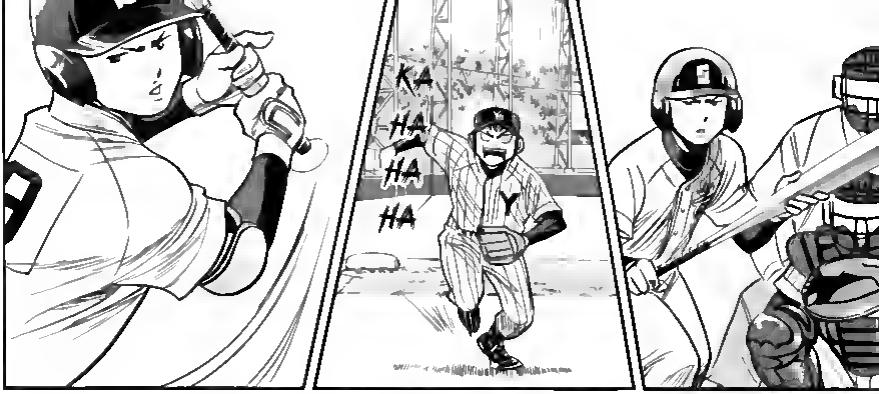
Fuh
NO HESITATION IN HIS EYES, EH... THE BASTARD.
ALRIGHT THEN! SHOW ME
THAT SWING OF YOURS!

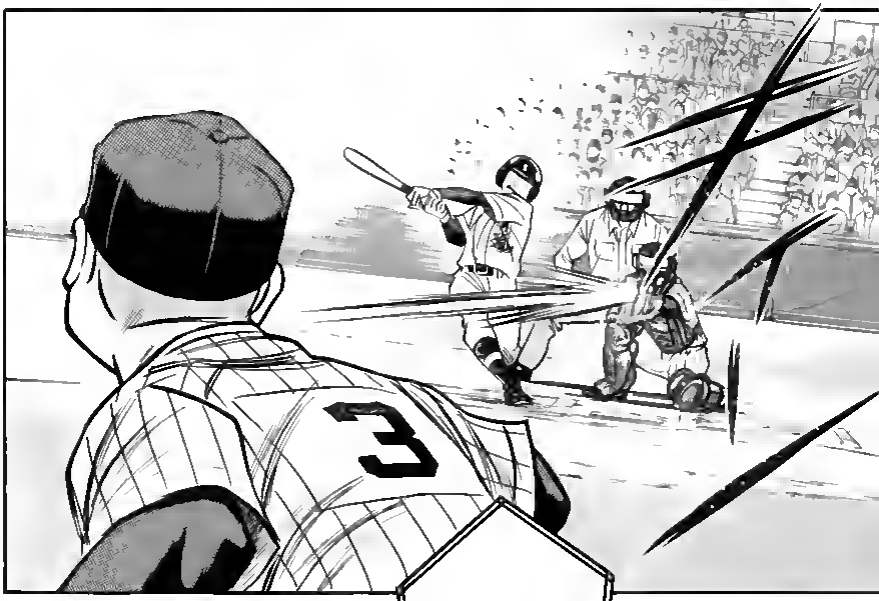
HE WENT FOR IT?!
WHA?!

IT GOES TO LEFT FIELD...!
FORWARD! RUN FORWARD!
HUH?
EH?
DON'T LET HIS FACE AND HIS SWING FOOL YOU!
IT'S NOT GOING TO FLY FAR!!!
ぽてち

YEA A A A AH!

YEA
A
A
AH!
Ugh
DON'T STRIKE FLASHY POSES AS IF YOU'D JUST HIT A WALK-OFF HOMER!
YOU'RE EMBARR=ASSING US!
YOU USED TO HIT TO THAT AREA A LOT, TOO, JUN.
HE MAY BE AN INCOURSE SPECIALIST, BUT THERE HAS TO BE A LIMIT...
WE CAN'T THROW TO THE INSIDE ANYMORE.
WOOOO
WE ALL SHOULD LEARN FROM HIM TO BE DRIVEN!
I'M PRETTY SURE ANYMORE DRIVEN IS SERIOUSLY OVERDOING IT...


KA
HA
HA
HA


3

BUSTER HIT AND RUN!
He hiHH!

THE FIRST BASE RUNNER MAKES IT TO THIRD.
NUMBERS 5 AND 6 PROVIDED THEIR TEAM WITH A CHANCE TO SCORE!
ALRIGHT~~! NICE ONE, SHIRASU!
THIS GUY'S REALLY AMAZING
YUP.
THAT'S THE ALWAYS RELIABLE MAN FOR YOU.

AS AN OUTFIELDER, I HAVE SOMEONE CLOSE BY TO ASPIRE TO BE LIKE, DON'T I.
IT'S SO REASSURING TO KNOW HE'S DEFENDING BEHIND YOU, BECAUSE YOU CAN'T FIND A PERSON MORE RELIABLE.
HIS PLAYSTYLE IS NOT FLASHY BY ANY MEANS, BUT IT'S ROCK-SOLID.
I CAN'T FLY, THOUGH.
WHY YOU KEEP INTERJECTING, AGAIN?!
FLYING SQUIRRELS BE
A GIANT FLYING SQUIRREL WORKS BETTER,
A DWARF FLYING SQUIRREL!
SHIRASU SENPAI IS LIKE A DWARF FLYING SQUIRREL!
SHOW SOME INITIATIVE!
HIGASA, YOU BETTER HIT!
NEXT UP, APPEARING ON THE STARTING LINEUP AFTER 5 MATCHES OFF IT!
NUMBER 7, THIRD BASEMAN, HIGASA-KUN.

JUST DON'T LET 'EM TAKE IT EASILY FROM YOU!
I DON'T CARE IF YOU GIVE UP A RUN,
INFIELDERS! THEY'RE GOING FOR A SQUEEZE!
THE SHORTSTOP AND SECOND BASEMAN MOVE IN TO A DOUBLE PLAY DEPTH!
BOW

THE BATTER SWINGS AGGRESSIVELY AND HITS RIGHT ON THE FIRST PITCH!
KA
HA
BUT IT'S A FOUL DOWN THE THIRD BASE LINE.
REAL DARING, AIN'T YA.
HE CAME SWING-ING.
AIN'T GONNA LET US GET OFF LIGHTLY WITH JUST 1 LOST POINT, IS THAT IT?
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE, THAT HESITATION-FREE SWING OF HIS...
...IS WHAT SETS HIGASA APART.

YOU CAN DO IT! YOU CAN DO IT!
NICE SWING!
HIGASA-SENPAI, YOU'RE MAKING CONTACT!
KANEMARU...
THAT'S RIGHT.
IT'S NOT ABOUT WHO'S THE STARTER OR WHO'S THE REGULAR...
BOW
THIS IS THE FINAL.

IF WE WIN IT, WE ARE AT KOUSHIEN ...!!!
PUSHU!!
5

KA
HA
HA
A LONG HIT TO LEFT FIELD!
Go!
THE FLYING DISTANCE IS MORE THAN ENOUGH!
THE RUNNER TAKES OFF!

AND IT'S SEIDOU HIGH THAT TAKES THE INITIATIVE
IN THE FINAL OF THE FALL TOURNAMENT!
3

A PRESENT SEIDOU'S SECOND YEAR STARTERS GIVE TO THEIR PITCHER, A FELLOW SECOND YEAR KAWAKAMI, WHO IS ALSO STARTING TODAY!
Follow it up, Nori-!
You almost made it to base!
Damn- If only it was in the air a bit longer!

IF I GOT INTRODUCED TO SOCCER BEFORE BASEBALL, WHAT KIND OF LIFE WOULD I LEAD THEN, I WONDER...
PLEASE HURRY UP!
THE MATCH HAS ALREADY STARTED!
THIS IS THE NATIONAL STADIUM, HUH?
WHAT GIBBERISH ARE YOU SAYING?!
NO, I'M SERIOUS HERE!
I'D PROBABLY BE IN ITALY OR SPAIN BY NOW...
OH, AND SINCE THE WEATHER IS SO NICE, I THINK IT'S HIGH TIME TO TAKE AN AFTERNOON NAP.
NO NAPS!

TBC IN VOLUME 43

STAFF

栗栖正義

宇野健志

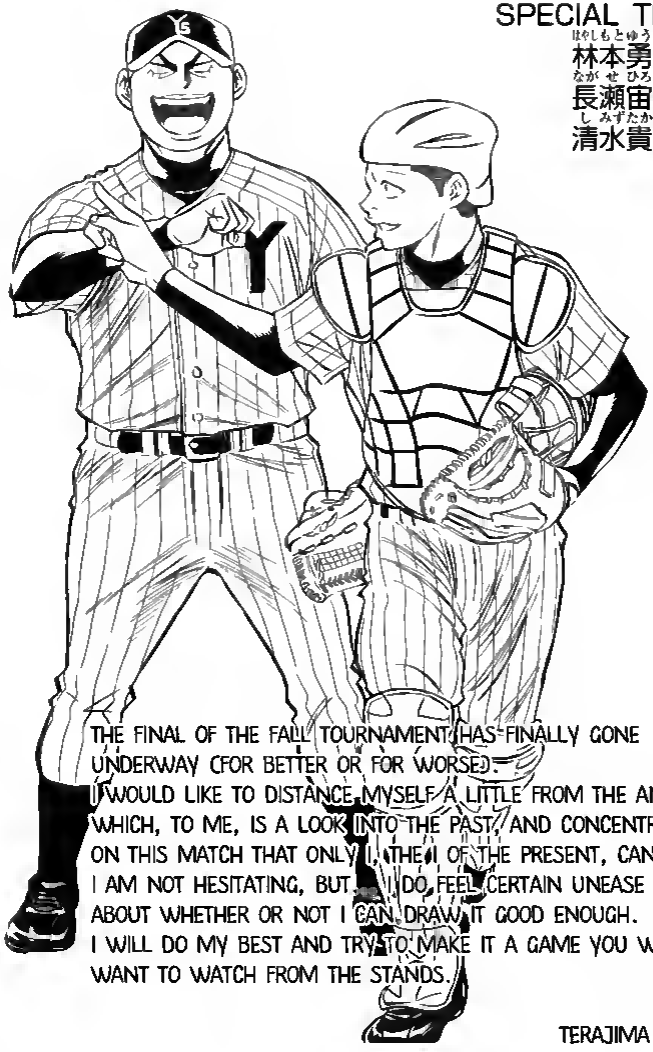
柴崎侑弘

SPECIAL THANKS

林本勇気

長瀬宙夢

清水貴司



THE FINAL OF THE FALL TOURNAMENT HAS FINALLY GONE UNDERWAY (FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE).
I WOULD LIKE TO DISTANCE MYSELF A LITTLE FROM THE ANIME, WHICH, TO ME, IS A LOOK INTO THE PAST, AND CONCENTRATE ON THIS MATCH THAT ONLY I, THE I OF THE PRESENT, CAN DRAW.
I AM NOT HESITATING, BUT... I DO FEEL CERTAIN UNEASE ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT I CAN DRAW IT GOOD ENOUGH.
I WILL DO MY BEST AND TRY TO MAKE IT A GAME YOU WOULD WANT TO WATCH FROM THE STANDS.

TERAJIMA YUUJI

編集部では、この作品に対する皆様のご意見・ご感想をお待ちしております。
また「講談社コミックス」にまとめてほしい作品がありましたら、編集部までお知らせください。
〈あて先〉
〒112-8001 東京都文京区音羽2-12-21 講談社
週刊少年マガジン編集部「少年マガジンKC」係
なお、お送りいただいたお手紙・おハガキは、ご記入いただいた個人情報を含めて
著者にお渡しすることがありますので、あらかじめご了解のうえ、お送りください。

★この物語はフィクションであり、実在の人物・団体・出来事などとは一切関係ありません。

作品初出／週刊少年マガジン2014年第8号～第16号

講談社コミックス マガジン KCM5125

ダイヤのA（エース） 42

2014年 7月17日 第1刷発行（定価は外貼りシールに表示してあります）

著 者 寺嶋裕二（てらじまゆうじ）
©Yuji Terajima 2014

発行者 清水保雅
発行所 株式会社 講談社
〒112-8001 東京都文京区音羽2-12-21
電話番号 編集部 東京(03)5395-3459
販売部 東京(03)5395-3608
業務部 東京(03)5395-3603
印刷所 株式会社廣済堂
本文製版所 株式会社二葉写真製版
製本所 株式会社廣済堂
講談社

●本書のコピー、スキャン、デジタル化等の無断複製は著作権法上での例外を除き禁じられています。
本書を代行業者等の第三者に依頼してスキャンやデジタル化することはたとえ個人や家庭内の利用でも
著作権法違反です。
●落丁本・乱丁本は購入書店名をご記入のうえ、小社業務部宛にお送りください。送料小社負担にてお取り
替えいたします。なお、この本についてのお問い合わせは週刊少年マガジン編集部宛にお願いいたします。

N.D.C.726 191p 18cm Printed in Japan ISBN978-4-06-395125-7